

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Decision Meeting
Date of meeting:	10 th October 2019
Subject:	Charges at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre
Report by:	Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change to make two changes to policies used at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRCs) at Port Solent. These are to:
- Increase the price of a bag of soil and rubble (incl. stonework, clay, bricks, concrete blocks, paving slabs, tiles, ceramic bathroom units) and individual ceramic items, such as a toilet pan, by 50p to reflect the increased cost of disposing of this material and to keep charging in line with the rest of the HWRCs operated by Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Southampton City Council (SCC).
 - Increase the price point at which individual items require labelling from £5 to £10 to reflect the change in the value of goods that has occurred over time. (This will not change the value of the item only the requirement for it to be labelled.)

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change approves an increase in the charge to users for a bag of soil and rubble or other individual ceramic items disposed of at a Household Waste Recycling Centre by 50p to £3.00 to reflect the increase in costs associated with management and disposal of this material and to ensure that charging is kept in line with HCC and SCC HWRC sites which are all managed under the same contract. (For current charges see appendix 1)
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change approves a change to the price point at which an item available to be sold for reuse at a

Household Waste Recycling Centre should be individually labelled from £5 to £10 to reflect the general increase in the value of goods.

- 2.3 The Director for Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services is given the delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change to agree future changes to the charges for non-household wastes at the Household Waste Recycling Centres to ensure that the City Council can respond rapidly - in partnership with Hampshire County and Southampton City Council to market changes and in keeping with contract timescales and to avoid additional cost burdens associated with any delays.

3. Background

Soil and Rubble charge increase:

- 3.1 On 1st October 2016, Hampshire County Council introduced charges at their 24 HWRC sites for non-household items including soil/rubble incl. ceramic items, plasterboard and asbestos. A decision was made to also implement the charging at the Portsmouth site to ensure that users were not diverted to Portsmouth from other sites where charges were applied to avoid paying the charges - as this would have increased the costs to PCC. Southampton City Council also introduced the charge and this meant that from the 1st October 2016 charges were applied at all HWRCs across Hampshire.
- 3.2 The charges were set at a level that covered the costs of managing and disposing of these non-household waste-types and have not changed since their introduction.
- 3.3 Material markets fluctuate and due to a change in the composition of the material that people are disposing of there has been a consequential shift in the market - the proportion of the material that is soil has reduced over the last two years - this is the most valuable element to the market place. This has led to an increase in processing costs. It is believed that the charges have resulted in residents seeking to reuse or minimise the amount of waste produced and therefore minimise the charges for disposal and it is often easy to reuse or sell the soil element to other residents. This leaves a more rubble based material being disposed of which has a lower value.
- 3.4 Veolia use a combination of outlets to achieve a best value solution whilst also ensuring that as much of the material as possible is recycled.
- 3.5 The site has an average of 500 paying customers per month and about 375 of these are Portsmouth residents.

Individual Pricing for Resale:

- 3.6 Each of the 26 HWRCs operated by Veolia on behalf of Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council has a sales

area where items that are suitable for reuse can be displayed and sold to site users. This has the benefit of pushing material up the waste hierarchy for reuse. This is a more preferable option than recycling and also provides an income that offsets some of the management fees associated with the delivery of the service.

- 3.7 The Sales Area Policy sets out the way in which the reuse areas at each of the HWRCs are managed. This includes a requirement for all items that the site deem to have a value of over £5 to be labelled.
- 3.8 This requirement in the policy has not changed for almost 20 years and in that time the value of goods generally has changed, as has the type of things that residents dispose of at the HWRCs.
- 3.9 It is proposed that in recognition of the fact that there have been no changes to the policy, and that goods have risen in value, the policy is amended to state that items over £10 in value need to be individually labelled. This will reduce the amount of time spent by site staff managing the resale areas with no impact to the public who will continue to be able to negotiate the prices as they do currently.

4. Reasons for recommendations

Soil and Rubble/ceramic items Charges:

- 4.1 There have been no other price increases since charges were first introduced. The price increase only applies to soil and rubble and individual ceramic items.
- 4.2 The price increase has been agreed by HCC and SCC at all the other Hampshire HWRC sites. By increasing the charges in line with the Hampshire and Southampton sites, we eliminate the risk that residents would travel to the Portsmouth site to avoid the increased charges.
- 4.3 PCC currently does not pay any costs for these material stream (as it is not household waste) and would incur additional costs if the proposed price change is not implemented.

Individual Pricing for Sale:

- 4.4 This will not impact on the actual prices of items, but will save time labelling items between £5 and £10.

5. Equality impact assessment

5.1. A full EIA has been completed. Whilst there is an impact on some groups who are on low incomes, the charges apply to a small number of items and are items not disposed of on a regular basis.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The report is appropriately balanced. The EIA as dealt with above reveals that whilst there are potential risks the ongoing risks are limited. The proposals are compliant with the E.P.A 1990 and the Local Authorities (Prohibition of Charging Residents to Deposit Household Waste) Order 2015 in that there remains a discretionary basis for charging until 1st April 2020.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 The proposed increase in the charge to users of the HWRC for the disposal of Soil and Rubble incl. ceramic items should meet the additional cost levied on the Council by the Waste Disposal Contractor Veolia and will avoid the need to make savings elsewhere within the budget to meet this additional cost.

7.2 If the Council did not increase charges in line with Southampton and Hampshire the Council could see an increase in the amount of these chargeable items disposed of at its own HWRC which could increase operating costs.

7.3 The change to the price point at which an item available to be sold for reuse at a Household Waste Recycling Centre should be individually labelled from £5 to £10 will have no financial impact.

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Signed by:

James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change on 10 October 2019

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Signed by:

Councillor Dave Ashmore - Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change